

St. George Orthodox Church

Parish Council Meeting -- April 14, 2024: 12:50 pm

Members present : Fr. Joel Gillam, Joe Solomon (Sr.) Cynthia Long, Jerome Burke, Gary Sarkessian, Michael Solomon, Alex Ibrahim, Sherry San Chirico, Caroline Becker, Emma Ibrahim, Joe Solomon (Jr.) Tony Nasr, Justine Leach , Marcia Ibrahim

I. Call to order and prayer

II. Approval of Minutes – (March 2024 minutes are attached separately.- approved pending addition of Maintenance Committee Report

III. Pastor's Report (Fr. Joel Gillam)

- Catechumen Chrismations - dates to be determined
- Gillam family new home search has come been accomplished - (Glenolden PA)- closing set for Bright Week

IV. Chairman's Report (Alex Ibrahim)

- Read a quote from St. Ambrose recently: "We must begin with thanksgiving for everything. The beginning of joy is to be content with your situation." I immediately thought of our work in the Church, because although we have a lot of work to do and a long "to-do" list, we also have much to be joyful about. Thank you for being part of such a wonderful church community and being a part of what makes it wonderful.
 - Annual Parish Picnic at Ridley Creek State Park: Sunday September 29.
 - Gift Acceptance Policy – Revision of original draft - 3rd line second paragraph and first line Page 2 - (see attached)- approved under New Business
- Thanks to those who created this document - Alex Ibrahim , Caitlin Gordon and Emma Ibrahim

V. Treasurer's Report (Tony Nasr) – (March 2024 Treasurer Report is attached separately.)

- Motion to approve report - Cynthia Long, second Sherry San Chirico
- Housing stipend approved previously by PC for Fr Joel and advanced

VI. Committee Reports

a. Adult Education- Sherry San Chirico for Kerry San Chirico (Kerry San Chirico)

The Spring Retreat will be on June 1.

Who: Dr. Sarah Byrne-Martelli

What (broadly): Examination of grief, mourning, and healing in the Orthodox tradition, in light of the Resurrection.

When: Saturday, June 1, 2024, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. -PC members encouraged to attend

For more information on Sarah, please see: byrnemartelli.com.

b. Capital Campaign Committee (Caitlin Gordon) (*not present*) summary presented by Alex Ibrahim

- The Committee did not meet in full during the month of April due to Lent and schedule conflicts, but will resume monthly meetings in May. Joe Solomon (Jr.) and Emma Ibrahim have joined the committee.

- Alex I. is presented a gift acceptance policy today for approval by the Parish Council at today's meeting This policy will provide a framework for the capital campaign, as well as Parish Council and the stewardship committee, for acceptable donations and those that the church cannot accept. (For example, those that place an undue burden on the church or go against our beliefs/standards.)

- To prevent changing databases in the middle of the campaign, we will transition to a new CRM in 2024, concurrent with campaign planning. The new database will provide us with the ability to track/segment members, run more robust reporting for campaign purposes, and streamline both communications and accounting.

c. Choir (Karen Burke)

- Choir rehearsals in April will be held most Sundays (12:30-1:15) and Tuesdays (6:30-8:00) as we prepare for the Lenten/Pascal Services.

- May: No Rehearsals

c. Icon Committee (Caroline Becker)

- Nick has completed 4 newly commissioned icons. Will be received before Pascha & we'll install on our own.

d. Long-Term Planning (Joseph Solomon)

- Parking Lot Discussion - Multiple options reviewed - still exploring issues related to site development and engineering, Township regulations and estimated costs

e. Maintenance Committee (Gary Sarkessian)

- The HVAC install will be completed [April 3], along with all new supply registers in Basement and new lights over the stage area. Then we simply wait and see as we make any needed adjustments to balancing airflow.

- We suggest we schedule a stage area organizational cleanup and beautification activity (Lazarus Saturday)

- Working with the Electrician (Alexi P) : including outside lighting

- "Stage" ceiling and lighting (Joe SS)

- Making the outside more secure (access, cameras?)

- HVAC air balancing (Farris, Nassim?)

The Chairman of the committee (Gary S) requested that someone else be appointed the chair of the maintenance committee. We need someone who lives near the church and has some time and talent and can handles these types of "activities": - Michael Solomon felt to be an excellent choice for the position - confirmation pending

Contact information provided to Cynthia (office manager) regarding landscaper and snow removal contractor - Frank Tansey

f. Ministry Teams

- Young Family Ministry (Matt Gordon - report)
 - Installed children's icon corner at the front of the church
 - Planning the post-Pascha egg hunt and picnic
- Hospitality Justine Leach
 - Justine and Roxy Harne - now leading this ministry
 - will be helping with Easter Egg hunt set up after Agape Service on Pascha
 - ◦ Palm Sunday luncheon- long discussion and debate - among the PC members and previous tradition of ticketing the event with specific pricing to offset the cost of the Salmon dinner -the ultimate decision was to have Parish Council fund any shortfalls and keep donations completely voluntary - PC member to help in preparation (if needed) and serving the meal (see New Business)
 - - working with prep team to determine best way to collect donations
 - have QR code for parish PayPal available for people who forget cash
 - Spring (Pascha) picnic: worked with young family ministry to identify site for picnic after Agape Service on Pascha –the San Chirico family graciously has volunteered to offer their home for a “ Potluck “ get together for those who do not have family in the area anyone else to celebrate
 - Fall picnic: Ridley Creek pavilion reserved for 9/29
 - Coffee hour sign-ups - near future project

g. St. Katherine Women (Cynthia Long)

SKW Spring 2024 Events

- Sat., April 13: Baking Prep Day yesterday [April 12] –no updates
- Sunday, April 28: Palm Sunday Bake Sale
- Friday, May 3; 11 a.m.: Preparing the Bier (Epitaphion)
 - Saturday, May 18; 9:30 a.m. Women’s Breakfast T.B.D. with the Women of Holy Ascension Church (our first choice location is closed for renovations)
- Sunday, June 2: RSVP Sight & Sound Theatre Trip (“Daniel” on Sat. Nov. 9; \$99 Adult & \$42 child) h.

Stewardship Committee (Jerome Burke) – Nothing to report.

i. Sunday School (Caroline Becker)

- Elementary thru middle school students submitted art and poetry to the Creative Arts Festival. • In the final stretch of lessons, finishing on 5/19.

j. Teen SOYO (Alex Ibrahim)

- The Annual Meatfare luncheon was very successful. We ran out of food slightly early, which was my fault in not controlling portions better at the beginning.
- Next Teen SOYO event is the Holy Friday vigil. Please encourage your Teens to attend.

VII. Old Business

- Tax Exempt Certificate

. Software program selected " Church Track " with accounting ,scheduling, donation and messaging modules has been selected by Fr. Joel and Caitlin Gordon - funds were approved previously

VIII. New Business

- Date of May P.C. Meeting – tentatively for May 12

- Gift Acceptance Policy (Attached separately) - Motion for Approval for document with language changes in the sections suggested - (unanimous)

Motion - Cynthia Long - The Parish Council will fund the cost of the Palm Sunday dinner that are not covered by donation and will help with serving and cleanup (unanimous approval)

Graduating H.S. Seniors to honor in June (\$) – Randa Ibrahim, Gabrielle Gillam, Aemon O'Connor, and Narek Sarkessian. Are there any others?

- Plan 2024-2025 Calendar Planning meeting - general consensus was that August would be the best time

IX. General Business Remarks

- Office Administrator (Cynthia Long)

- Greeters & Readers for May 12 Michael Solomon Joe Solomon (Sr.)

- Gary Sarkessian is the point person for Lazarus Saturday Clean-Up Day

- Caroline B – Sunday School-- to write a blurb about Laz. Sat Proskemedia for the bulletin and/or send an email to S.S. parents

- Looking for volunteer to be the Epitaphio point person for Good Friday Bier

- Looking for a volunteer to write a blurb about Good Friday Vigil for the bulletin

- Point Person for the Good Friday Vigil

- Deadline for May newsletter submissions is April 24 / April 28.

- Need to order more literature for Literature Rack (probably after Pascha)

- Pool party planned for sometime in June at Gary Sarkessian's home

after Sunday School Completion

X. Adjourn and Closing Prayer